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SLAVERY KEEPS RAND MINES ON THE MAP

Dispatches from South Africa for the past week have been ominous of trouble in the gold mines on the Rand. The later dispatches indicate that the troubles have been put down with rather a rough hand, and a good many of the rioters killed, but particulars of what was done are lacking. In view of the reports from there, however, it is of interest to note a recent view taken of the mines on the Rand by E. W. Howe, the noted Kansas editor, in his Monthly for June. Mr. Howe is on a world jaunt, having started from San Francisco, visited Hawaii, Tutuila, Australia, New Zealand, and then South Africa. He visited Johannesburg, and in his account of the gold mines on the Rand, states that 184,000 men are employed in those mines; that practically all of the miners are native negroes. These negroes "are compelled to work for whatever the whites decide is necessary to keep the country's industries flourishing." In many places there the blacks out-

number the whites fifty to one, and are compelled to work "for whatever wages the whites are able to pay." If they do not, the whites say, "The blacks are in rebellion again, and send for British soldiers." He quotes a Georgia man there as saying that the South African negroes are no better laborers than the negroes of the south, and continues: "If South African government should decide that the prosperity of the country depended upon the negroes working for a shilling a day each, a law would be passed without regard for the rights of man."

Mr. Howe reviews the situation by saying that Chinese labor was tried in the Johannesburg mines, and at one time there were more than 50,000 Chinese employed in these mines. But the Chinese "gradually demanded more wages, and as a result were ordered to leave South Africa, a fate which is now overtaking the Hindus." He quotes a statement in a newspaper, there that "If American miners' wages were paid along the Rand, the mines would show a loss instead of a profit."

Mr. Howe says that Johannesburg ore is of low grade, much of it averaging only \$4 a ton, while a little of it is worth \$25; and further: "A good many years ago three thousand American mining engineers were employed along the Rand, and a few of the best ones received from \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year, but now the number does not exceed four hun-

dred. I have heard it hinted that as soon as the Americans taught the English how to mine and to extract the gold from the Rand ores, there were bickerings over salaries, and the Americans went elsewhere. The American mining engineers are highly regarded for many reasons, but especially because of their quickness and cleverness in meeting difficulties."

It is very likely that the troubles in the South African gold mines are due very largely to the cause suggested by Mr. Howe, namely, that the American mining engineers have been largely ousted and that Englishmen have taken their places; for there is no question but that American mining engineers are men of the highest skill, and that their reputation for resourcefulness in meeting all sorts of difficulties is well earned. This is not the case with English mining engineers, as a rule, or English superintendents or managers of any kind. The English are not resourceful in meeting difficulties of various kinds; on the contrary, they wish to "bull through," pushing matters on their own lines, regardless of other views, and absolutely uncompromising. It is likely, therefore, that the difficulties in the Rand mines are largely due to the fact that the American mining engineers have been ousted in favor of Englishmen, who were not their equals in "quickness and cleverness in meeting difficult-

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